

Message Text

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SUBJECT: DEATH OF PRESIDENT TITO'S BROTHER STJEPAN

REF: ZAGREB 0269

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT TITO'S LAST SURVIVING BROTHER STJEPAN DIED IN ZAGREB ON DECEMBER 16, 1973 IN HIS 80TH YEAR AFTER "LONG AND SEVERE" ILLNESS. STJEPAN WAS REPORTEDLY ACTIVE EARLY IN "WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT" AND SUBSEQUENTLY WITH THE PARTIZANS. IN CONTRAST TO VERY LOW-LEVEL PUBLICITY AND ATTENDANCE CONNECTION DEATH AND FUNERAL TITO'S BROTHER SLAVKO IN APRIL 1973 (REFTEL), STJEPAN'S FUNERAL GIVEN PROMINENCE BY MEDIA AND WELL ATTENDED BY SENIORS FROM CROATIA'S OFFICIAL AND PARTY LIFE. OLD ZAGREB POLITICAL FIGURE AND MEMBER COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION IVAN KRAJACIC LAID WREATH ON STJEPAN'S GRAVE FOR PRESIDENT TITO AND MADAME BROZ. END SUMMARY

1. ZAGREB'S "VEČERNJI LIST" DECEMBER 18 CARRIED ROUTINE OBITUARY NOTICE OF DEATH ON DECEMBER 16, 1973 OF STJEPAN BROZ IN HIS 80TH YEAR AFTER "LONG AND SEVERE" ILLNESS. AMONG THE BEREAVED WERE LISTED "BROTHER JOSIP" AND "SISTER REZIKA". OTHERS WERE WIFE MARIJA, DAUGHTERS ANA AND ROZA PLUS NUMEROUS GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN. THE FUNERAL WAS ANNOUNCED FOR ZAGREB'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIROGOJ CEMETERY AT 1510 ON DECEMBER 18.

2. TV ZAGREB EVENING DECEMBER 18 GAVE MUCH PROMINENCE TO FUNERAL OF PRESIDENT TITO'S BROTHER STJEPAN. IN ATTENDANCE WERE PRESIDENT BLAZEVIC OF CROATIA'S ASSEMBLY AND MANY OTHER SENIORS FROM OFFICIAL AND PARTY CIRCLES IN CROATIA. OLD ZAGREB PARTY FIGURE AND MEMBER COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION IVAN KRAJACIC LAID WREATH ON GRAVE FOR PRESIDENT TITO AND MADAME BROZ. EULOGIES WERE GIVEN BY REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL ZAGREB VETERANS AND POLITICAL UNITS IN WHICH STJEPAN HAD BEEN MEMBER. THEY PRAISED STJEPAN AS EARLY MEMBER OF "WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT" AND FOR HAVING CARRIED OUT "MOST VARIED RESPONSIBILITIES" WITH THE PARTIZANS "TOGETHER WITH HIS BROTHER JOSIP". ACCORDING TO TANJUG REPORT ON STJEPAN'S DEATH AND FUNERAL PUBLISHED IN ZAGREB EDITION OF "BORBA" DECEMBER 19, STJEPAN WAS TITO'S LAST SURVIVING BROTHER AND FUNERAL WAS ATTENDED BY "MORE THAN A THOUSAND".

3. ACCORDING TO VLADIMIR DEDIJER'S 1952 BIOGRAPHY "JOSIP BROZ TITO", STJEPAN, BORN DECEMBER 21, 1893, WAS THE EIGHTH OF 15 SIBLINGS OF WHICH TITO WAS SEVENTH. DEDIJER LISTS SISTER TEREZA (REZIKA), BORN AUGUST 27, 1902 AS FOURTEENTH OF SIBLINGS. SHE AND TITO BORN 1892 APPEAR TO BE LAST SURVIVORS OF FIFTEEN.

COMMENT: IN CONTRAST TO VERY LOW-LEVEL PUBLICITY AND ATTENDANCE CONNECTION DEATH AND FUNERAL TITO'S BROTHER SLAVKO IN APRIL 1973 (REFTEL) STJEPAN'S FUNERAL GIVEN PROMINENCE BY MEDIA AND WELL ATTENDED. PERHAPS THE FACT THAT STJEPAN WAS EVIDENTLY MUCH MORE ACTIVE POLITICALLY THAN SLAVKO HELPS EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE. THERE WAS ESSENTIAL NOTE OF SIMILARITY, HOWEVER, IN THAT TITO ATTENDED NEITHER FUNERAL.

WILSON

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